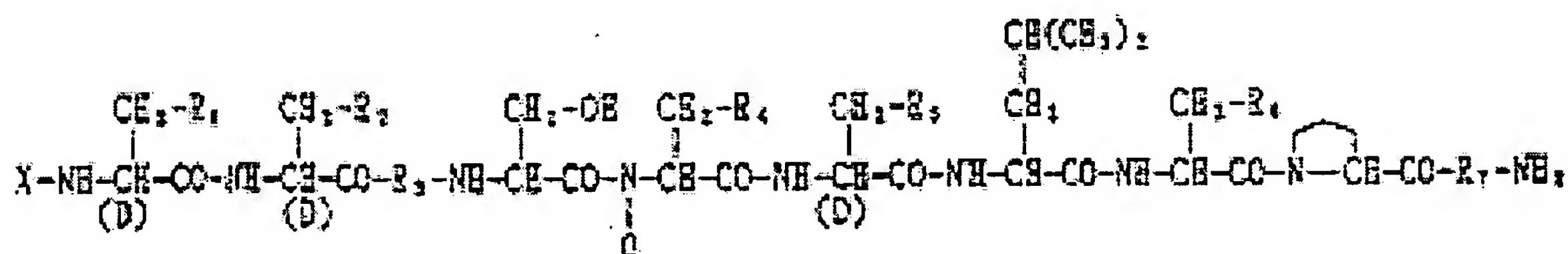


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

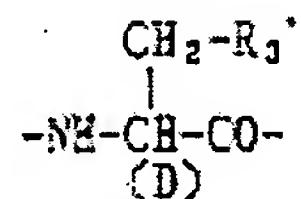
This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A sustained-release preparation which comprises:
a physiologically active peptide of the general formula



wherein X represents an acyl group; R₁, R₂ and R₄ each represents an aromatic cyclic group; R₃ represents a D-amino acid residue or a group of the formula



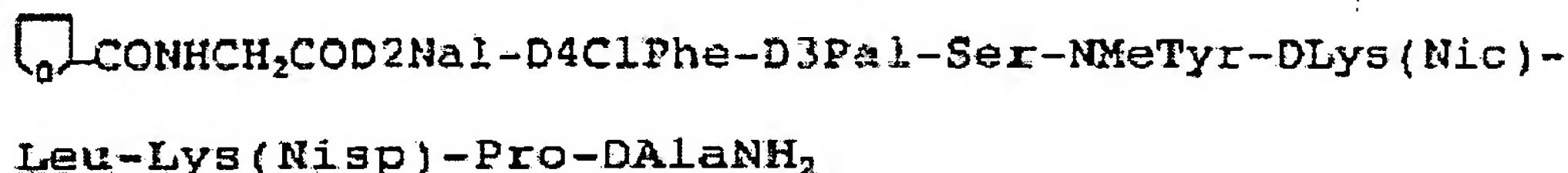
wherein R₃ is a heterocyclic group; R₅ represents a group of the formula -(CH₂)_n-R₅ wherein n is 2 or 3 and R₅ is an amino group which is optionally substituted, an aromatic cyclic group or an O-glycosyl group; R₆ represents a group of the formula -(CH₂)_n-R₆ wherein n is 2 or 3 and R₆ is an amino group which is optionally substituted; R₇ represents a D-amino acid residue or an azaglycyl residue; and Q represents hydrogen or a lower alkyl group, or a salt thereof; and

a biodegradable polymer having a terminal carboxyl group;

wherein the biodegradable polymer is a copolymer of lactic acid and glycolic acid, that has a weight average molecular weight of about 5,000 to about 25,000, as determined by GPC, a dispersion value of about 1.2 to about 4.0 and the proportion of the physiologically

active peptide ranges from about 0.01 to about 50% (w/w) based on the biodegradable polymer, or

wherein the physiologically active peptide is



or its acetate salt and wherein the copolymer has a weight average molecular weight of about 2,000 to 50,000, as determined by GPC and a dispersion value of about 1.2 to 4.0.

2. (previously presented) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 1, wherein X is a C₂₋₇ alkanoyl group which is unsubstituted or substituted by a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic carboxamido group.
3. (previously presented) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 2, wherein X is a C₂₋₄ alkanoyl group which is unsubstituted or substituted by a tetrahydrofurylcarboxamide group.
4. (withdrawn) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 1, wherein X is acetyl.

5. (withdrawn) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 1, wherein the biodegradable polymer is a mixture of (A) a copolymer of glycolic acid and a hydroxycarboxylic acid of the general formula



wherein R represents an alkyl group of 2 to 8 carbon atoms and (B) a polylactic acid.

6. (withdrawn) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 1, wherein X is acetyl, and the biodegradable polymer is a mixture of (A) a copolymer of glycolic acid and a hydroxycarboxylic acid of the general formula



wherein R represents an alkyl group of 2 to 8 carbon atoms and (B) a polylactic acid.

7-8. (canceled)

9. (withdrawn) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 5, wherein the polylactic acid has a weight average molecular weight of about 1,500 to 30,000 as determined by GPC.

10. (withdrawn) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 5, wherein the polylactic acid has a dispersion value of about 1.2 to 4.0.

11 – 16. (canceled)

17. (withdrawn) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 1, wherein the physiologically active peptide is NAcD2Nal-D4ClPhe-D3Pal-Ser-NMeTyr-DLys(- Nic)-Leu-Lys(Nisp)-Pro-DAlaNH₂ or its acetate.

18. (withdrawn) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 1, wherein the physiologically active peptide is NAcD2Nal-D4ClPhe-D3Pal-Ser-Tyr-DhArg(Et₂)-Leu-hArg(Et₂)-Pro-DAlaNH₂ or its acetate.

19-25. (canceled)